



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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President Bush Reiterates Education Reform Principles

President Bush and the White House today reiterated the four pillars of his *No Child Left Behind* education reform agenda that has passed the House and Senate by overwhelmingly bipartisan margins. The reform principles include:

- **Accountability:** H.R. 1 measures progress in reading and math for every child in grades 3-8 and holds school districts accountable for ensuring that all children are making academic progress.
- **Flexibility and Local Control:** *No Child Left Behind* provides additional flexibility by consolidating programs and granting greater flexibility and decision-making authority to state and local officials.
- **Expanding Parental Options:** H.R. 1 gives new options to every parent by providing students with **immediate public school choice** as well as supplemental educational services -- including tutoring by private, religious-affiliated providers.
- **Funding Programs That Work:** The bill bridges the gap between educational research and the classroom to implement proven, scientifically based approaches to provide kids with basic skills, including his Reading First initiative.

H.R. 1 represents the most significant change in federal education policy since 1965, and strong bipartisan votes in both chambers marks the beginning of the end of the status quo.

Message of the Day

President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education plan represents a dramatic break from the past.

- *H.R. 1 gives states and local school districts unprecedented flexibility while holding them accountable for closing the achievement gap.*
- *The bill empowers parents with information about the progress their children are making, the quality of the schools they're attending, and the qualifications of the teachers who are teaching them.*
- *It gives parents an array of new options and provides a safety valve for disadvantaged children trapped in failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 allows up to 100 local school districts in all 50 states to enter into five-year performance agreements with the Education Secretary that allow them to **waive federal program requirements** but holds them accountable for improving student achievement (the Senate bill provides such flexibility for 25 school districts and seven state governments).
- H.R. 1 provides immediate public school choice (including charter schools) to parents with children in failing public schools (the Senate bill provides public school choice after two years).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"On his second day in office, President Bush laid out his four pillars of comprehensive education reform: accountability, local control and flexibility, expanded parental choice, and doing what works. H.R. 1 makes unprecedented advances in all four areas, and it answers the fundamental question of how we can create an education system that will leave no child behind." **Education Secretary Rod Paige, May 23, 2001**